

Low-Incomes Families Benefit From Heating Assistance Funding

Washington, DC: Low-income families around Colorado will benefit this winter from additional federal heating assistance funding. Congresswoman Marilyn Musgrave (CO-04) today announced the release of \$1,675,737 for Colorado through the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Nationally, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) is releasing \$733 million.

"With increased prices of natural gas and other heating energy sources, families across our state will be paying higher bills this winter," said Musgrave. "I am pleased this money has been made available to help residents who will struggle to pay the higher heating bills, especially since we never know what the weather is going to bring in Colorado."

According to Colorado Department of Human Services, to date, 47,736 households in Colorado have been

received an average benefit of \$293.47. Colorado residents interested learning more about qualifying for assistance can call 1-800-782-0721 or 303-866-5970 or visit:

<http://www.cdhs.state.co.us/oss/FAP/LEAP/default.html>.

Today, HHS will now make available up to \$633 million of states' remaining block grant funds in addition to \$100 million in emergency contingency funds to states -- for a combined total of \$733 million. The money is administered by the Administration for Children and Families through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

States have already received \$1.3 billion in annual block grant funds in the first quarter of fiscal year 2006 (October 2005 - December 2005) under a continuing resolution supported by Congresswoman